Western Legislative Impacts on Traditional Medical Practice

Wednesday, March 18, 6:30pm to 7:30pm
UH Hilo Campus, UCB 100

Presented by the University of Hawaii at Hilo Faculty Congress and the College of Continuing Education and Community Service

Hawaii’s indigenous culture and ethnic diversity have contributed to unique laws that accommodate culturally-based medical practices. Coupled with catastrophic medical events such as epidemics and leprosy, Hawaiian medical practices and needs required laws to regulate these demands. As a result, legislation has responded to the distinctive traditions of our islands, both host and introduced. The presentation discusses the demands for laws which addressed cultural medical practices such as opium, lāʻau lapaʻau, and lomilomil as well as federal recognition of our aboriginal medical traditions.

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Helen Wong Smith, MLIS, CA, has worked with Hawaiian resources and collections for over 30 years, including Archivist at Queen’s Medical Center, Specialist for the Native Hawaiian Center of Excellence, Historical/Cultural Specialist for Kamehameha School’s Land Assets Division and Hawaiian Collection Librarian at Mookini. She is currently the Pharmacy & Health Sciences Information Resources Coordinator at the Daniel K. Inouye College of Pharmacy. She serves on the Society of American Archivists’ Council the first archivist from Hawai‘i since 1968.

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